(x) The Central Issue Price (CIP) of wheat and rice for the APL category has been reduced w.e.f. 12.7.2001, which will be valid till 31.3.2002:

(Rs. per quintal)

| | APL |
|---|---|
| Wheat | 610 |
| Rice | 830 |

(xi) The Ministry of Rural Development has launched the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) on 25th September 2001 based on the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15th August 2001. Under the programme, it is envisaged to utilize 50 lakh MTs of foodgrains every year. The allocation of foodgrains under SGRY upto 28.2.2002 has been 30.82 lakh MTs.

(xii) The Open Market Sale Scheme of wheat was continue during the current financial year 2001-2002. The quantity sold from April 2001 to 15.2.2002 was 37.87 lakh tonnes.

**Requirement of Sugar Under PDS in Andhra Pradesh**

1218. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present requirement of levy Sugar of Andhra Pradesh for distribution to the eligible Consumers under PDS;

(b) whether the full requirement of the State is being released and lifted;

(c) if not, the gap between requirement and release; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The allocation of monthly levy sugar to the State of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) is made on the basis of the projected population as on 01.03.2000 @ 500 grams per capita to the families belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL). Accordingly, the present monthly allocation of levy sugar of State of

A.P. for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS) works out to 9690 MTs. The entire allocation is released by the Central Government every month.

**Sugar Development Fund**

1219. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in his Ministry for raising the Sugar Development Fund so as to enable it to invest in technology for production of ethanol from sugarcane;

(b) if so, when such a request was received in the Ministry;

(c) what steps Government have contemplated thereon; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to encourage sugar factories for more production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) A letter dated 08.12.2001 from the Chief Minister Andhra Pradesh suggesting providing of adequate financial support on concessional terms from the Sugar Development Fund for encouraging sugar factories to invest in technology for manufacture of anhydrous alcohol from sugarcane juice was received in this Ministry on 20.12.2001.

(c) Government has decided to introduce legislation to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 to enable the Fund being applied, *inter alia*, for making loans to any sugar factory or unit thereof for production of anhydrous alcohol or ethanol from alcohol with a view to improving their viability.

(d) Government provides loans on concessional terms from the Sugar Development Fund for the development of sugarcane in the area of the sugar factory and also for modernization/expansion of sugar factories as steps for encouraging them for more production of sugar.